

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 8, 10, 11 and 13 - 22 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 9 and 12 have been canceled and new claims 17 - 22 have been added.

The new claims have been added to further emphasize features of the present invention.

Claims 1 - 16 have been rejected as being obvious over EP '440 in view of Taghezout.

The present independent claims set forth a watch movement with a first or main axis, and a plurality of other axes. The plurality of other axes are set forth as being arranged on a straight line where the straight line is perpendicular to the other axes. In the embodiment of present Figs. 1 - 3, the first or main axis is represented by reference A, and the other axes are represented by reference B, C, D and E. The straight line in Fig. 1 is represented by line X-X.

As one can see, all the other axes B - E are on the substantially straight line X-X. Applicant has found this arrangement of the axes to be very beneficial in that it allows for easy reading of all of the dials or hands of the watch.

Applicant has reviewed '440, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a plurality of other axes for mobile elements or hands which are aligned along a substantially straight line. The rejection indicates that Taghezout teaches an arrangement of time indicators 18 - 21 in a time piece in a straight line.

Applicant has reviewed Taghezout, especially with regard to elements 18 - 21. Applicant finds that elements 18 - 21 are described by Taghezout as being rotors. These rotors are arranged in a stator 2 such that they have two rest positions or minimum energy positions, column 3 lines 48 - 60. By applying alternately positive and negative electrical pulses to the

coils, the rotors can be moved from one rest position into another. Applicant's review of Taghezout does not find any indication that elements 18 - 21 are time indicators. Instead it appears that 18 - 21 are rotors, and Applicant finds no indication that the rotors, or the rest positions, in Taghezout are indications of time.

Instead it appears that elements 18 - 21 of Taghezout are just simple rotating devices which drive additional objects. It appears that Taghezout is mainly describing electro-mechanical transducers with a single stator and several rotors. Applicant does recognize that Taghezout describes in the first paragraph that these rotors are able to be used for driving various indicators of a time piece. Therefore it appears that elements 18 - 21 of Taghezout are not time indicators, but are instead drivers for time indicators. Therefore Taghezout does not teach an arrangement of time indicators in a straight line, but instead only appears to indicate that the drivers for a time indicator can be arranged in a straight line. Therefore Taghezout would not teach a person of ordinary skill in the art to place the mobile time indicators of '440 in a straight line.

Applicant notes that since '440 shows a specific arrangement of time indicators, but does not indicate to show exactly how those time indicators would be driven, the person of ordinary skill in the art would be led by the applied combination to use the drivers of Taghezout, but to have the time indicators arranged as in '440.

It is only the present invention which has specifically disclosed sequential determination of time components, namely by placing a plurality of other axes along a substantially straight line. Therefore it is Applicant's position that the combination of the applied prior art would not

lead a person of ordinary skill towards the invention of the present independent claims.

Applicant further notes that the two rest positions of the rotors in Taghezout, are not generally sufficient for indicating time. Usually a much larger plurality of positions is desirable in a time indicator. Applicant notes that when the minutes or seconds are desired to be indicated, it is usually desirable to have at least 60 different positions in a time indicator. Applicant notes that while an hour hand usually requires at least 12 different positions, it is often desirable to show the hour hand at various positions between the different hours in order to have a better understanding of the time. Applicant further notes that even 12 positions is much more than the two positions of Taghezout. Therefore a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to use the rotors 18 - 21 of Taghezout to be time indicators. Instead it appears that the rotors of Taghezout must be connected to gear trains which would then space any time indicators away from the actual rotors. Therefore the position of the rotors in Taghezout would not lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to a specific arrangement of actual time indicators.

Applicant further notes that the position of the drivers for time indicators is not an automatic indication of where the actual indicators will be located. Drivers are usually connected to their respective indicator by a series of gears. When a plurality of time indicators are provided, they are usually used to represent different parameters. Therefore the gear ratio between each driver and its indicator is usually different for each indicator/driver. This usually requires different size gears, and thus arranges the time indicator at different spaces from its respective driver. Therefore the arrangement of the drivers is not an automatic indication of

where time indicators will be arranged. Instead the distance between a time indicator and its driver is usually dependent upon the gear ratio desired between that indicator and its driver. Therefore the arrangement of drivers in Taghezout further does not provide any indication as to a preferred arrangement of time indicators.

It is only Applicant which has disclosed that placing the additional hands or mobile elements along a straight line would be beneficial. As the specification describes on page 1 lines 31 - 32, the prior art arrangement of the four small dials such as '440, is difficult to read since the eye has to follow a circular movement in order to read the four small hands. Applicant has found that the arrangement of the additional hands or mobile elements in a straight line as set forth in the independent claims, is much easier to read. This specific arrangement of the additional axes with the corresponding hands or rotary movements is therefore an improvement over the arrangement in '440. Since it is only Applicant who has discovered this improvement, Applicant respectfully requests patent protection for this improvement.

Claim 19 sets forth a watch movement where a measured second hand pivots around the main axis. Correspondingly, a first of the additional hands displays current seconds. Applicant notes that in most ordinary watches, the seconds are displayed by hand which pivots around the main axis. In watches that also measure elapsed time, the elapsed time is displayed by the additional hands or mobile elements which rotate about axes that are spaced from the main axis. Applicant has found that very often the seconds are very important or significant when measuring elapsed time. Applicant has also found that the seconds of elapsed time are often more significant than the seconds of the current time. Therefore the arrangement of the

measured elapsed seconds being around the main axis, and the current seconds being around another axis, makes the display of the present invention much more easy to read than the prior art. This particular arrangement of the measured seconds and the current seconds further improves the reading of the present invention. Applicant does not find this feature in the prior art, and therefore claim 19 further defines over the prior art.

Applicant notes that this feature is also present in claims 5, 10 and 11. These claims therefore also further define over the prior art.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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